Abolition of Posts in CCW, AIR

4145. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish more than 1000 posts in the civil construction wing of AIR:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely impact on the working of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In order to achieve economy in staff, consistent with administrative efficiency, and to evolve optimal performance and work norms, a study of staff strength of the Civil Construction Wing (CCW) of All India Radio was conducted by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance. The SIU submitted its Report in March 1995, and assessed the staff strength of CCW as 2113 as against the then sanctioned strength of 3620. The Government, after consulting Prasar Bharati, has implemented the recommendations of the SIU related to CCW.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that abolition of posts is unlikely to have any impact on its working, as the posts have been abolished strictly in accordance with prescribed norms.

Launching of 24-Hour Satellite Channel

4146. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRA1AH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has launched a new 24-hour satellite channel DD Bharati on 26th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the main programmes of the new channel;

(c) whether Government have already phased out D.D New Channel;

and

(d) If so, to what extent this new channel has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMAT1 SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the DD Bharati has various genres of programmes which include themes on health, art & culture, performing arts, music, folk art and programmes for children.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) It is to early to measure the success of the channel.

Task Force Conditional Access System

4147. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force set-up by.her Ministry for conditional access system of broadcasting has Finalised a multi-tier structure of delivery;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has also Finalised the specifications of the set-top box used for conditional access;

(c) whether the Committee has also decided that the free-to-air channels would be broadcast on a basic tier where the subscriber will have to pay a nominal charge on per subscriber basis; and

(d) if so. to what extent these have helped the broadcasting system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The main recommendations of the Task Force set-up to examine all aspects related to Conditional Access System (CAS) are—

(i) The Conditional Access System and the supportive Subscriber Management System should be mandated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(ii) The Set-Top Box (STB) shall be required only for "pay" Channels and "Free to Air" channels shall be receivable by the subscribers in the current mode without the use of STB.

(iii) The technical parameters of STB shall conform to the Indian standards, to be prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards, which may take into account the internationally acceptable standards consult technologists/manufacturers.